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CRISIS OF INFINITE IDENTITIES

EXCALIBUR



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COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

I'M THE
REAL
MEGGAN!

NO, I AM
THE REAL
MEGGAN!

I THOUGHT I
WAS THE REAL
MEGGAN!



ALAN DAVIS / FARRER

THIS IS EE'RATH,

ONE OF AN INFINITY
OF ALTERNATE EARTHS...

...INNUMERABLE WORLDS
EXISTING IN THE SAME
PHYSICAL SPACE BUT
EACH ON A DIFFERENT
VIBRATIONAL PLANE OF
THE OMNIVERSE--

-ENDLESS VARIATIONS
OF WHAT IS OR WHAT
MIGHT HAVE BEEN.

-NOW LOCATED IN COMBAT
WITH EE'RATH'S FORMER
DEFENDERS, THIS WORLD'S
VERSION OF EXCALIBUR!

IN THIS REALITY, AN EVIL EMPIRE
HAS ENDED IN BLOODY REBELLION.



THE DEPOSED TYRANT,
NECROM, GLOUTON
AT THE MACABRE JACONY
OF HIS REVENGE ON
THE REBEL LEADERS--



--THE PEOPLE'S CHAMPION,
KYLUN, AND THE WITCH
PRINCESS, SA'TNEEN--



DECades ago, this other
EXCALIBUR tried to end
NECROM's reign of ter-
ror, but failed--so
paid the ultimate price--

--AND, IN DEATH,
ARE CORRUPTED TO
NECROM'S SERVICE.

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HE HAD FORGOTTEN
THE STRENGTH OF
GRAVE HEARTS FIGHT-
ING IN A JUST CAUSE.



...AND THE CADAVEROUS EXCALIBUR CRUMBLES.



THWARTED AGAIN,
NECROPH UNLEASHES
THE FULL FORCE OF
HIS GOSHEROUS
MIGHT.



...BUT THEY
ARE NOT
ENOUGH.



AS KYLUN CRADLES SA'TNEEN'S BROKEN BODY - SILENTLY PRAYING, WILLING HER TO LIVE...



THE ESSENCE OF ALL THAT THEY ARE MERGES...

-AND IN A FINAL TRAGIC COMMUNION...



THEY BID FAREWELL...

THEN, THE LAST VESTIGE OF SA'TNEEN'S LIFE-FORCE FADES...

...LEAVING KYLUN WITH A GAPPING VACUUM AT THE CENTER OF HIS BEING...

AND, AIDED BY HIS "SLAVE CREATURE", NECROM FLEES INTO THE HAUNTED EDIFICE KNOWN AS THE TOWER THAT CROSSES TIME.

NO ONE HAS SET FOOT IN THIS PLACE FOR TWENTY THOUSAND YEARS...

--LEGEND TELLS THAT IT IS A DOORWAY TO WORLDS BEYOND...

...WORLDS OF GHOSTLY INSANITY AND DARK GLASS DEMONS.

SLAM



BUT KYLUN WOULD RISK HIS ETERNAL SOUL TO FOLLOW NECROM...

THE POWERFUL CAPTAIN BRITAIN, THE SHAPE-CHANGING MEGGAN, THE INTANGIBLE SHADOWCAT, THE TELEPORTING NIGHTCRAWLER, THE MYSTERIOUS PHOENIX, THE EVER-UNPREDICTABLE WIDGET AND LOCKHEED THE DRAGON FORGED IN THE FIRES OF THEIR TRAGIC PASTS. THEY HAVE BANDED TOGETHER TO FIGHT A MODERN DAY CRUSADE AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL! STAN LEE PRESENTS...

EXCALIBUR!

...WHEREVER
HE MAY GO...

COLIN

THE BARBARIAN

KRASH

ALAN DAVIS
WRITER/PENCILER
MARK FARMER
INKER
MICHAEL HEISLER
LETTERER
GLYNIS OLIVER
COLORIST
TERRY KAVANAGH
EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

EXCALIBUR CREATED
BY CHRIS CLAREMONT
AND ALAN DAVIS

MEIN
GOTT!

KYLUN RECALLS ANOTHER
LEGEND--OF AN OMEN THAT
HERALDED THE ENSLAVEMENT
OF EE'RATH.

IN THE VERY HOUR SATNEEN'S
MOTHER, QUEEN AI'SHA, WAS
DETHRONE BY NECROM, A
BLUE DEMON EMERGED FROM
THE TOWER THAT CROSSES
TIME...

...SPAT OUT AN ALIEN CURSE,
THEN VANISHED IN A BURST
OF FLAMING BRIMSTONE.*

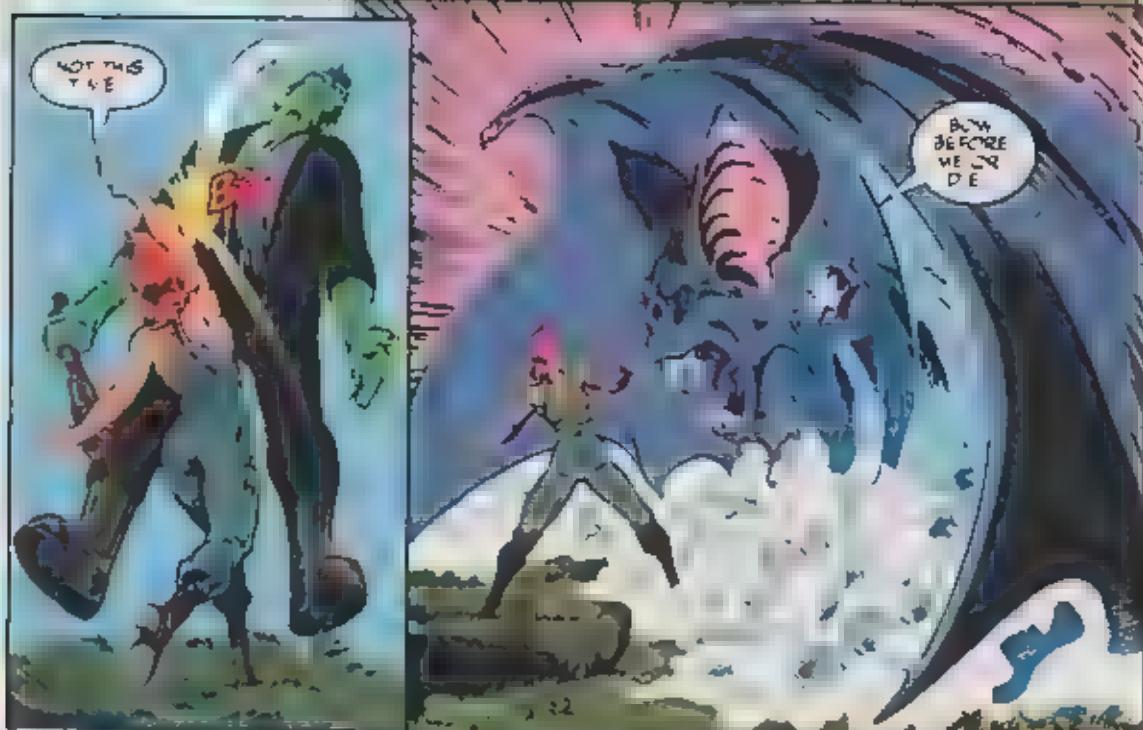


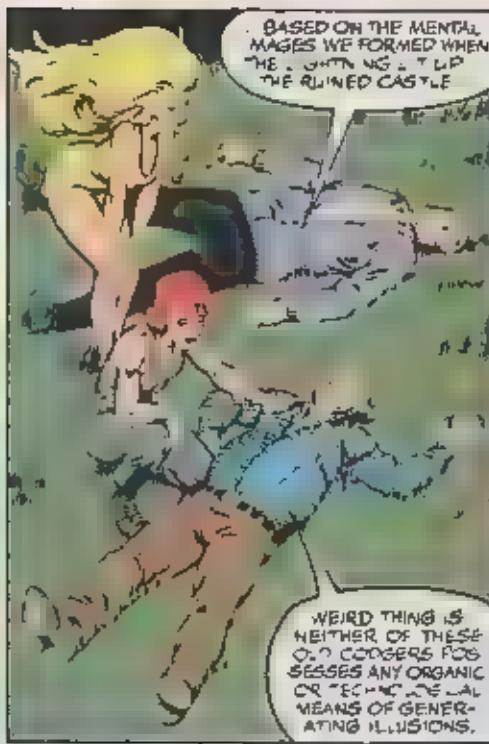


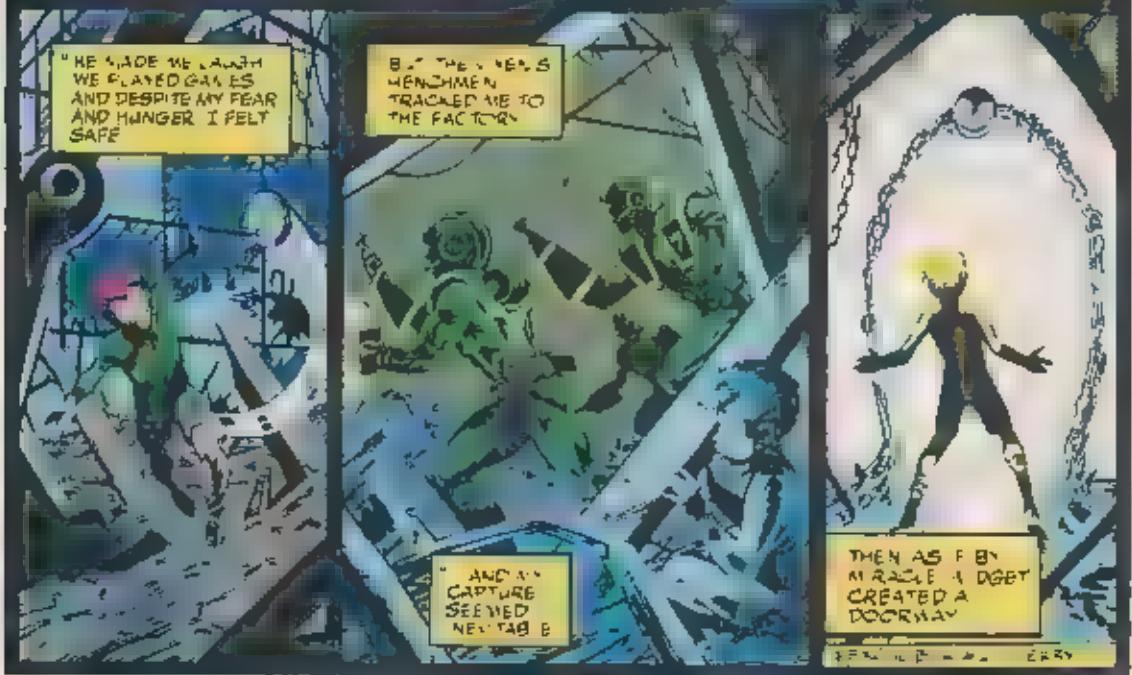
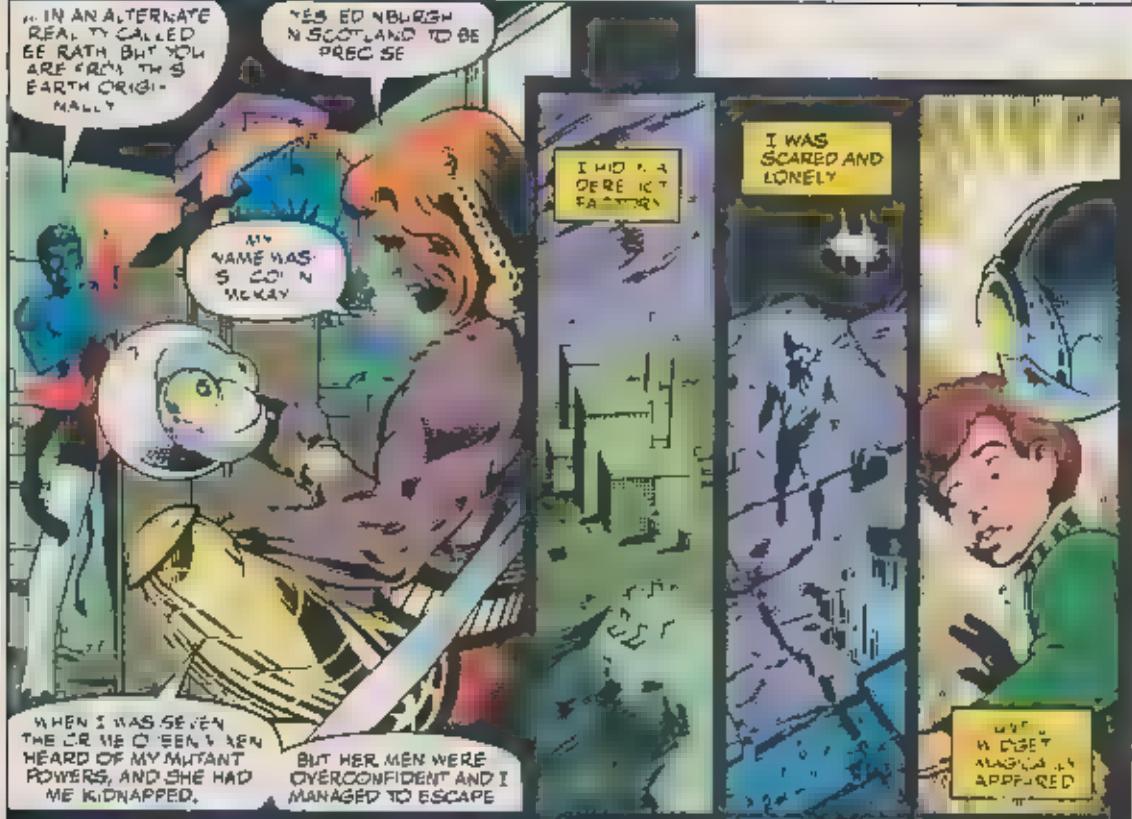












AND WHEN I STEPPED
THROUGH I STOOD ON
THE CE PLANS OFF RATH

THE LOCALS REGARDED
MY ARR VAL AS A GOOD
OMEN

SO THEY TOOK
ME TO THE
EX-LED ROYAL
HOUSEHOLD

QUEEN AI SHA
PLACED ME IN
THE CARE OF HER
COUNSELOR THE
WIZARD ZZ RIA

"... AND HE TRAINED ME
TO BE A WARRIOR.

"THEN WHEN I CAME OF
AGE I CHOSE THE IMAGE
OF WIDGET AS MY TOTEM

"... AND PLEDGED MY HEART
TO THE QUEEN'S DAUGHTER,
THE PRINCESS SAATNEEN.

"WE WERE SO HAPPY
BUT IT WAS NOT
DESTINED TO LAST

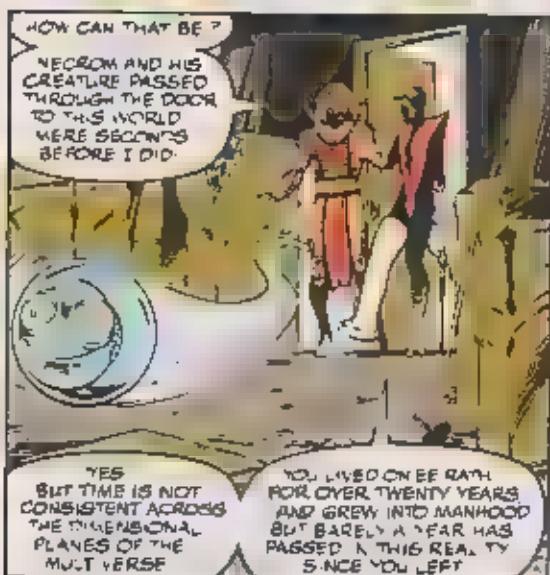
NECROM WAS FEARFUL OF
THE GROWING STRENGTH OF
THE EX-LED QUEEN'S ARMY.

"SO HE LAUNCHED A
COWARDLY ATTACK ON
OUR SETTLEMENT

IT WAS A
MASSACRE

QUEEN AI SHA
ZZ RIA AND THOUSANDS
OF ROYAL SUPPORTERS
DIED. HUNDREDS MORE
INCLUDING SAATNEEN
WERE IMPRISONED.

I WAS
BADLY WOUNDED
AND LEFT FOR
DEAD





SUDDENLY AWARE OF THE INTUITIONS
OF LANGUAGE RACHEL FORCES A
SILENCE - SO THAT I DONS
MIRRORS TO SEE THROUGH HER EYES -

THE EFFECT
RACHEL HAS
AS A MIRROR

I LOOK
DIFFERENT -
BUT I DIDN'T
SHAPE-
SHIT

THIS IS YOUR
TRUE ASPECT BRIGHT
CHILD. THE ALSHRA
IS TRUTH

YOU ARE NOT
DESTINED TO
FIND YOUR PARENTS
AT THIS TIME. YOU
HAVE FOLLOWED A
FALSE TRAIL

MADAM TELDA
TOLD YOU OF A
MAGIC CREATURE
THOUGHT TO BE
HIDDEN IN A GYPSY
CARAVAN. TOM
ASSESSMENT HER
CRYPTIC TALE
REFERRED TO
YOUR PAST

TO PERLIE VE
IT IS THE PRIZE
AT YOUR QUEST'S
END

WHILE IN
TRUTH & GREEN
CROW W - SPED
RUNAWAY OF MY
PRESENT

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND

THAT'S A
FAIRLY
AMAZING
COINCIDENCE

NOT SO. WE ARE PAWNS
OF FATE AND OTHERS WHO
HOPE TO MANIPULATE THE
GAME OF LIFE

YOU MEAN
WE'VE BEEN
USED - BUT WHY?
BY WHOM?

"I SEE JESUS AS THE ANSWERS BUT IF HE HAS COME AS THE HELPER TO THE LESSONS OF THE PRESENT HE WILL BE LOST."

"YOU HAVE BOTH LEARNED TOO MUCH OF CURSE, ES AND EARTH MOTHER IN THE PAST. IT'S THIS MOMENT."

"MEGAN DRAW STRIPLINH FROM YOUR MIND FROM ACCEPT YOUR UNDAMNESS."

"RACHEL YOU BEGAN THIS QUEST TO HELP YOUR GRANDMOM BUT FINALLY HER PAST HER SENT IT."

"THE LEGEND THOUGHT YOU BELIEVED YOU COULD NEVER REGAIN."

"BUT THOUGHT YOUR UNSELFISH ALtruistic WAY OF THE MOTHER."

"THE CONFUSED FRAGMENTS OF YOUR PAST BEING IN YOUR ORDER FROM LOST SOON YOUR MEMORY WILL BE COMPLETE."

"WHY DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT US?"

"WHEN THE OLD MEN ATTACHED TO OUTLAW THEY USED MY POWER TO MY ETERNAL SHAME. I SAW ALL THEY SAW AND SHARED IN ALL THEY DID."

"IN THESE SEVENTY YEARS AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE I COME FROM. I DON'T EVEN TRAPPED WITH STARS."

"FREED SELF."

"I AM ONE OF THE VENOM IN AN EASY RALE. I'M SEENED OF POWERFUL MAGIC."

"ADVENTURES CAST AS RETREATED FROM THE REAS OF LIFE. I RETURN AND ONCE AGAIN SEE OCCASIONAL CROSSES."

"BUT MY MADNESS HAS REFUSED TO TREAT HER."

"BAM"





THE EXCALIBUR
MUSHROOM...





SWORD STROKES

© MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

TERRY KAVANAGH
EDITOR
MARK POWERS
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: If you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

And the mail just keeps pouring in! Yes, everyone wants a chance to say "welcome back" to Alan Davis! So we'll just let all you well-wishers speak for yourselves.

Read on!

Dear Sword Strokes,

This is the first time I've written to Marvel, but I had to now just to say thank you, thank you, thank you! Bringing back Alan Davis in issue #42 was most triumphant. I have collected EXCALIBUR since issue #1 and loved it. Don't ever let Davis quit drawing EXCALIBUR now.

Shawn Decker
1472 Cottonwood Ave.
Minot, ND 58701

Dear Sword Strokes,

Joy and Repture!!! Oh, happy day!!! Callow!! Callay!! Davis is BACK!!! Right where he belongs!!! Thank you, thank you, thank you!!! Our prayers have been answered!!!

The Alan Davis Groupie Group
Tabitha R. Jones, Pres.
(Address withheld upon request)

Dear English Mutting,

I taw! I taw a tweety bombl
I did! I did taw a tweety bombl
Kaboom!!

Mark Phillips
P.O. Box 1927
Johnson City, TN 37605

Dear Sword Strokes,

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! I just finished reading EXCALIBUR #42 and I must say it was awesome (weally!). Alan Davis RULES.

When I first began reading your book, Mr. Davis was finishing up the "Cross Time Caper." It was spectacular and I was definitely hooked. But, then, to my great dismay, Mr. Davis left. I stuck with the book during Mr. Davis's absence, but I slowly began to lose interest. By issue #41 I was ready to give up EXCALIBUR for good. Until the Riotous Return Of...you know who! What more can I say? (Oh yeah, thank you! And welcome back to his exalted majesty, Alan Davis.)

Ernie Elkins
125 Linwood Dr.
Lincolnton, NC 28092

Dear Sword Strokes,

I've been reading EXCALIBUR since the first issue of this sensational comic. Mostly I've been pleased with all the stories with my favorite super heroes. But lately I've found the stories not nearly so overwhelming as

when the master himself, Alan Davis, was pencil on EXCALIBUR. Therefore, I'm thrilled that he's back! A big welcome to Alan Davis!

Issue #42 was great! Fantastic! Sensational! Neat! Marvelous! Overwhelming! I don't have the right kind of words to express my feelings about this issue. All I can say is that it really blew me away. It took my breath away and I want more!

The story itself was very good, it was exciting and a whole lot of fun. The art was of course the very best. Alan Davis is the best! The fight with Technet was awesome. The end of it was brilliant. I almost felt sorry for Gedecrasher. But I'm sure we haven't seen the last of her. I'm looking forward to seeing how Excalibur and Technet will manage to live together. I don't think good old Captain Britain will like it much.

EXCALIBUR #42 was truly a masterpiece. With the help of Mark Farmer this must be the greatest EXCALIBUR issue to date. I'm looking forward to the up-coming comics with these two guys. So far I love it with all my heart.

Until Shadowcat decides to marry Arcade, Make Mine Marvel!

Marin "Dazzler" Madsen
Kansergade 16 3TV
DK-2100 Copenhagen
Denmark

Dear Sword Strokes,

Welcome home, Mr. Davis! All I can say is that the art is once again at its best and I'm sure the same can be said about the writing. Again, welcome back!

Well, that's all I wanted to say so when you get a chance, tell Kitty I said "Hi!"

Dann Lazzarino
33710 Alta
Garden City, MI 48135

Dear Mr. Davis,

I thought issue #42 was really neat!
I'm glad you came back!

Tony Guerero
527 Edinburgh Lane
W. Dundee, IL 60118

Dear Alan,

It's good to have you back where you belong; you're looking swell, Alan; you can tell...oops. (Sorry about that.) Or should it be it's good to have EXCALIBUR back where it belongs? Whichever — it still feels good. The artwork was stunning and the story was okay. Hey — just joking! It was "A" class. Matter of fact, it reminded me of some of the great (early) Howard The Duck stories. Speaking of the web-footed wonder, I don't suppose... Didn't think so.

I'm not going to tell you in what direction I think EXCALIBUR should go, who should

come, who should go... I mean, that's your job. Mine's to sit back and enjoy (but if you should ever need a guest with feathers, will you think about...).

Russell McCarthy
33 Bymes St.
North Parramatta
New South Wales 2151
Australia

Dear Alan, Mark, Michael, Glynn and Tamy.
Concerning EXCALIBUR #42:

WOW! Truly excellent! I would've bought it for the cover alone! EXCALIBUR has returned to greatness! We are entering a platinum age of comics! THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! The art is better than McFarlane's! The humor easily surpasses that of SHE-HULK. Okay, I'll admit it. I liked this issue!

There is one thing I'd like to draw your attention to, something all-to-often forgotten in other comics: DETAIL! Thank you, Alan, for your attention to detail. Take page 3 for instance: we get a never-before-seen view of Excalibur's kitchen, and it looks like a real kitchen, with all the little knick-knacks you would expect from one. Page 4: look at all those faces, and all those different expressions in the faces! WOW! Page 14: Look at that orchid in Horatio Cringebottom's lapel! (Love the name, by the way!) Look at Bert, with his communicating headband, right down to the words on his shoes! Marvel at page 17, where every component of Widget, right down to the smallest baked bean, is encrusted! Awesome! Revel in stupefaction at page 25, panel 4, where every wisp of smoke is smaller as you go down each level of the lighthouse! Also notice Lockheed merrily chasing after seagulls!

Need I say more? Well, I'm going to anyway! Thank you, Alan, for dealing with all those nagging questions, such as how Widget functions, why Saturnyne let Phoenix (love her, by the way) go, and who those people were who appeared briefly in issue #11.

I'm sorry this is such a long letter, but I just had to cover you with praise for putting this book back on its feet. EXCALIBUR is definitely #1 on my list!

Laurent Jacquinot
26 Abberbury Rd.
Ifley, Oxford OX44ES
England

Dear EXCALIBUR Staff,

Issue #42 is the first EXCALIBUR comic I have read and I think it is brilliant! Alan Davis is a great artist. I thought Herwy was pretty cute and cool.

Sheri Colina
(Address withheld upon request)